

House Republican Press Release

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Budget Includes \$7 Million for Danbury Line



Governor M. Jodi Rell's proposed state budget contains \$7 million for upgrading the Danbury branch commuter rail line through Wilton and Norwalk.

The proposed capital funds would be used to support design changes and improvements to the line, including new signalization and train control systems to increase the safety and enhance the operation of the Danbury branch.

Approval by the state House and Senate is required during the current 2006 session of the state legislature.

"This would be a huge improvement for the whole region," said State Rep. Toni Boucher. "I have been asking for an upgrade of the Danbury line for a long time. This funding is a direct response to multiple requests that these funds be included in the budget."

"The Danbury line is really an asset to the entire Danbury to Norwalk corridor," added Rep. Boucher. "Its improvement will help not only to ease transportation problems but also encourage economic growth, job creation and other benefits for the people of the area."

Rep. Boucher noted that the Danbury branch line is so antiquated that "for years rail engineers actually had to depart the trains to pull a switch manually as the trains passed by. We have called this to state attention, and this year we have finally been heard."

"I am extremely grateful to Gov. Jodi Rell and her administration for addressing these urgent needs to this important rail link," said Rep. Boucher.

"The growth of local businesses in the corridor add to the need and the demand for the rail line improvements," said Rep. Boucher.